

December 19, 2007

Representative Eugene Hahn
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy
Room 15 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

My name is Charlie Schneider, I am the Director of Facilities Management Programs at Cooperative Educational Services Agency 10 (CESA 10). One of the goals of our department is to help schools across the state make good decisions when purchasing and consuming energy. Over the past 7 years we have worked with nearly all of the public school districts in the state and most of the private schools as well.

Two years ago I was approached by a representative from Johnson Controls wondering if we would want to partner with them to put together a consortium of schools that would want to build and operate a wind farm.

After much consideration back at the office we decided that we should explore this partnership further with a couple of very important requirements. First, this cannot take any money away from education! Secondly, it must also include an educational component.

As, we discussed this further it became clear that Johnson Controls was a natural partner for us. Through the performance guarantees that they do everyday in their energy efficiency work they would be able insure that no money will be taken away from education. They also provide an educational component to their energy efficiency work.

The main tool that we are leveraging here to make this happen is Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs). These bonds were created by the Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005. The CREBs allow the school districts to sell zero interest bonds paid back over 15 years. This tool will play a major roll in making this project work financially.



As we have promoted this consortium to schools in the past two years we have had 21 schools apply for and receive the ability from the US Treasury to sell the Clean Renewable Energy Bonds. These bonds will total nearly 18 million dollars. If we are not able to move forward with this project soon we will not be able to take advantage of the CREBs funding, which brings us to why we are here today.

Currently, Wisconsin statutes are silent in reference to allowing a school district to own and operate a renewable energy facility. By you passing the legislation that is in front of you the statutes will specifically allow a school district to own and operate which will protect these districts as they embark upon this journey to bring new revenue into their district, bring more renewable energy education into the schools and bring more renewable energy to Wisconsin. In other words it's about doing the right thing! I urge you to pass Assembly bill AB625

cc: Assembly Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy



LAKE HOLCOMBE SCHOOLS

December 19, 2007

Representative Eugene Hahn
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy
Room 15 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

This is in regard to bill AB 625 regarding a school wind farm.

It has been a long time since something as creative as this has happened where schools can get involved in energy efficient program at no expense while creating ownership over a wind generator after a period of years.

We were one of the original schools to sign on and also sponsored a resolution to the WASB convention that made its way to the delegate floor. That in itself shows the importance of a bill of this nature.

The original group that helped design this bill was from the northern part of the state, but the bill became so well accepted that other school from all areas of the state have come on board. The impact that is now state wide tells you the interest that schools have in this bill and how they want this bill to come to a reality.

The process that this bill has had to go through has been long with many different hurdles, but yet the schools involved still endure. This should explain the importance of this bill to the people involved.

I sincerely hope that you take a very close look at this bill and move it out of committee. It does not cost the state anything and puts all legislatures in the futuristic mode for the environment and education.

Sincerely,

Tom Goulet
Lake Holcombe Administrator

cc: Assembly Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRAIRIE FARM

630 S. River Avenue
Prairie Farm, Wisconsin 54762

December 19, 2007

Representative Eugene Hahn
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy
Room 15 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

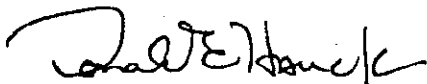
Dear Sir:

The School District of Prairie Farm wishes to express its desire to contribute to an ever-growing "green movement," while at the same time capturing some much needed revenue in the future to help support the day-to-day operations of the school district.

The Prairie Farm School Board supports the concept of a school district's involvement and participation in "buying" a part of a wind farm commensurate with its own size and fiscal ability to participate, supported by a major corporation. Participation in this program has possibilities beyond the fiscal, including potential educational benefits for the students at Prairie Farm as well as contributing to helping- albeit it in a small way, our nation reduce its over-dependence on fossil fuel.

Therefore, the School District of Prairie Farm encourages positive action by the Wisconsin State Legislature to move this project forward from concept to action.

Sincerely,
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRAIRIE FARM



Donald E. Hauck Ed.D
District Administrator

cc: Assembly Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy

December 19, 2007

Representative Eugene Hahn
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy
Room 15 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Hahn:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the School District of Abbotsford, encouraging the support of the School Wind Project initiative before your committee.

As you know, Abbotsford is one of several districts throughout the state that has applied for and received approval for Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBS) at zero percent interest for the School Wind Project. To date, over \$12 million in funding for Wisconsin school districts has been approved.

The legislation that is being debated at today's hearing provides Wisconsin school districts with a potential source of revenue. With the fiscal dilemmas many of the school districts are facing, the opportunity to supplement our budgets with additional revenue from such a project would be welcome.

Our board supports the educational component of this project. The School Wind Project initiative provides a valuable educational opportunity for our students to actively participate in and learn about renewable energy resources. As we prepare for the energy challenges of the future, the proposed bill advances our state's goals toward increased reliance on Wisconsin-based renewable energy. The school's involvement in this project, not only allows for incorporation into curriculum areas, but also sets an example for the use of energy alternatives.

It is commendable that your committee is looking at a pro-active approach to renewable energy resources. This legislation will allow schools to take the lead in educating future generations of the importance of renewable energy sources.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Reed Welsh
District Administrator
School District of Abbotsford

cc: Assembly Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy

Johnson Controls, Inc.
2400 Kilgust Rd., Madison, WI 53713
Main 608 226 5100 Fax 608 222 9490



**TESTIMONY TO THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE
ON BIOFUELS AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
ON AB 625, "THE SCHOOL WIND INITIATIVE"
December 19, 2007**

Good morning. I am Stephen Anderson, Senior Account Representative with Johnson Controls, Inc. JCI is a Fortune 100 corporation headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with annual sales of \$34 billion. The company has three business groups, focused on automotive interiors, building efficiency, and batteries. The building efficiency group was the foundation of the company, which was established by Professor Warren Johnson of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater when he invented the electric room thermostat in 1885. The company has been the leader in building controls, but has expanded over time into other areas.

One of JCI's growth markets has been Performance Contracting, also called Guaranteed Energy Savings Contracting. School districts and federal, state, and local governments can upgrade their lighting, HVAC, controls, water fixtures, and other building infrastructure to reduce energy consumption and use the energy and operational savings to finance the improvements. State statutes (66.0133) permit this procurement method as long as the provider is a qualified energy service company, the savings are guaranteed, and the savings are measured and reported.

Recently, rural schools in Illinois have asked JCI to include wind turbines in their energy efficiency projects. The wind turbines are erected on district property and excess energy is sold to utilities. There are performance guarantees on the wind turbines. This

type of “in the fence” project is feasible in Wisconsin, but site conditions may not maximize output and revenues. A better approach would be to locate the wind turbine at wind “rich” sites and to consolidate several school districts to obtain economies of scale. The power would be sold to utilities at a premium and the districts would share the revenue. The intent is not to “wheel” the power back to the schools. Utilities want to purchase this power to fulfill their Renewable Portfolio Standards.

Funding for the wind turbines is available through the sale of Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs), which were established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and have a three year budget of \$500 million. Schools and local governments can obtain these zero-interest bonds to finance qualified projects by applying to the IRS.

JCI has worked with school districts in Minnesota to obtain CREBs. A consortium of 12 districts will own and operate ten 2.5 MW wind turbines, selling the power to Xcel Energy. A second consortium of 41 districts is waiting for the IRS approval this December. JCI has worked with 14 school districts in Wisconsin to obtain approximately \$14 million in CREBs, and another ten have applied for IRS approval. In both Minnesota and Wisconsin, state statutes did not explicitly permit school districts to own and operate wind farms or other renewable energy projects. Minnesota enacted legislation that corrected this, and the consortium moved forward. Rep. Suder and Senator Jauch have drafted similar legislation that is before this committee today. If enacted, the districts can commit their CREBs prior to the December 31, 2008 expiration.

The legislation has two very important additional points. First, the schools must incorporate the renewable energy into their curriculum. Wind farms are a highly visible and exciting technology that has potential in earth science, mathematics, electronics, art, biology, and political science. JCI has been a leader in energy education programs, developing curriculum materials and providing teacher training through the National Education Foundation. The JCI Academy would be available to any participating districts. Secondly, there is a 5 MW limit for any district to participate in a project, thereby minimizing risk.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the proposal.

The Barron Area School District

Barron High School
Phone 715-537-5627
FAX 715-637-1603

Woodland Elementary
Phone 715-537-5621
FAX 715-637-9353

Almena Elementary
Phone 715-357-3263
FAX 715-357-6513

Administrative Office
100 West River Avenue
Barron, Wisconsin 54812
Phone 715-537-5612
FAX 715-637-5161



Riverview Middle School
Phone 715-537-5641
FAX 715-637-5373

Dallas Early Learning Center
Phone 715-837-1180
FAX 715-837-1201

Ridgeland-Dallas Elementary
Phone 715-949-1445
FAX 715-949-1617

The mission of the Barron Area School District is to ensure all students reach their dreams while making a positive impact on the world.

December 17, 2007

Representative Eugene Hahn
Room 15 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Representative Mary Hubler
Room 119 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

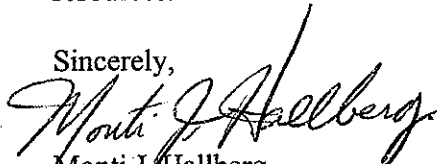
Dear Representative Hahn and Representative Hubler;

This letter signifies my endorsement and support of Assembly Bill 625 authorizing School Boards to construct or acquire renewable energy resource facilities. The Barron Area School District Board of Education adopted a resolution in April of 2006 supporting Barron's participation in a consortium of schools to support wind turbines to produce electricity. We were one of the first schools to propose this idea. The merits of clean and renewable energy stands for itself, especially in a time where fuel is at an all time high. Our dependence on foreign oil needs to be dramatically reduced. Although there is no law preventing this action, we have been on hold waiting for legislation that allows us to produce electricity with wind.

It is our understanding that the legislation of this bill will only allow us to produce electric energy up to 5 megawatts. Thus, saving our school taxpayers thousands of dollars on energy costs.

Finally, we promote clean and renewable energy in our curriculum and we see this as an opportunity to provide our students with a hands-on, real-life lesson on clean and renewable energy such as wind. I applaud the authors and supporters of this Bill for they have foresight and global perspective in helping this world become less dependent on fossil fuels and foreign resources.

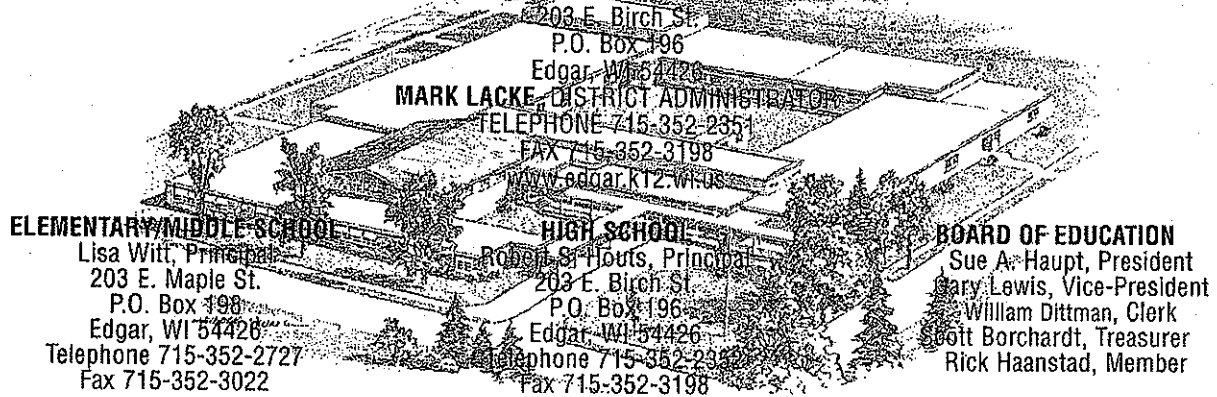
Sincerely,


Monti J. Hallberg
District Administrator

MJH:skh

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF EDGAR

EDGAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



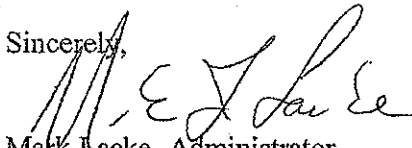
December 19, 2007

Representative Eugene Hahn
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy
Room 15 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Committee members,

The School District of Edgar is in full support of renewable energy legislation as proposed in AB607 and AB 625. We are encouraged by the educational opportunities for our students as outlined in the Wind Energy Initiative Project partnering CESA #10 area schools and Johnson Controls Company. The financial liability safeguards designed in this project illustrate the cooperative ventures that Wisconsin schools and businesses should be entering. Please lend your support to this legislation.

Sincerely,


Mark Lacke- Administrator
School District of Edgar

cc: Assembly Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy

Equal Opportunity Employer



Winter School District

Dr. Penny Boileau, District Administrator –
pboileau@winter.k12.wi.us
Adam Zopp, K-12 Principal – azopp@winter.k12.wi.us
Deborah Aaron, Director of Pupil Services
6585 W. Grove Street, P.O. Box 310
Winter, WI 54896
Phone 715-266-3301
Fax 715-266-2216

December 18, 2007

Representative Eugene Hahn
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Biofuels and Sustainable Energy
Room 15 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Committee Members:

I am writing to notify you the Winter School District is in full support of renewable energy legislation as proposed in AB607 and AB625.

We are encouraged by the innovative partnerships and educational opportunities that can result from this project. We are also hopeful this a way for schools to view school funding in a new light with cooperation with business.

Sincerely,

Dr. Penny L. Boileau
District Administrator

The Mission of the Winter School District is to empower a community of lifelong learners to reach their highest potential by providing a safe, healthy, interactive, learning environment, which emphasizes the importance of academic excellence, global awareness, social responsibility, cultural diversity, creativity, and curiosity with honor, pride, and respect.